

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A mount lock apparatus for a camera comprising:
 - a projecting exterior portion which is provided substantially at a central portion of a front surface of a camera body;
 - a circular annular mount plate, which is fitted to said projecting exterior portion, and to which a photographing lens unit is detachably attached, said circular annular mount plate having a connecting surface which contacts with said photographing lens unit;
 - a mount lock pin which is biased to protrude from said connecting surface of the circular annular mount plate to engage with said photographing lens unit at a predetermined position; and
 - a mount unlocking button which is operated to move said mount lock pin in a direction to retract from said connecting surface;
 - wherein said mount unlocking button is provided on a portion of an outer peripheral surface of said projecting exterior portion that is located closer to a lens optical axis thereof than a farthestmost portion of said projecting exterior portion from the lens

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optical axis in a horizontal direction of said camera body, and

wherein a horizontal distance from the lens optical axis to a head portion of the mount unlocking button is smaller than a horizontal distance from the lens optical axis to an outermost edge of the projecting exterior portion.

2. (Original) The mount lock apparatus for a camera according to claim 1, wherein the operating direction of said mount unlocking button is parallel to a plane which is perpendicular to an optical axis of the photographing lens unit.

3. (Original) The mount lock apparatus for a camera according to claim 1, wherein said mount unlocking button is connected to an auto-focusing lens drive pin via a link mechanism.

4. (Original) The mount lock apparatus for a camera according to claim 3, wherein said link mechanism is provided with a mode selection device for selecting an auto-focus mode or a manual focus mode.

5. (Original) The mount lock apparatus for a camera according to claim 1, wherein said mount unlocking button is located inside a vertically-extending tangential plane of

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the outermost edge of the projecting exterior portion.

6. (Currently Amended) A camera having a mount lock apparatus, comprising:

a projecting exterior portion which is provided substantially at a central portion of a front surface of a camera body of said camera;

a circular annular mount plate, which is fitted to said projecting exterior portion, and to which a photographing lens unit is detachably attached, said circular annular mount plate having a connecting surface which contacts with said photographing lens unit;

a mount lock pin which is biased to protrude from said connecting surface of said circular annular mount plate to engage with said photographing lens unit at a predetermined position; and

a mount unlocking button which is operated to move the mount lock pin in a direction to retract from said connecting surface,

wherein said mount unlocking button is provided on a portion of an outer peripheral surface of said projecting exterior portion that is located closer to a lens optical axis thereof than a farthestmost portion of said projecting exterior portion from the lens optical axis in a horizontal direction of said camera body, and

wherein a horizontal distance from the lens optical axis to a head portion of the

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mount unlocking button is smaller than a horizontal distance from the lens optical axis to an outermost edge of the projecting exterior portion.

7. (New) A mount lock apparatus for a camera comprising:

a projecting exterior portion which is provided substantially at a central portion of a front surface of a camera body;

a circular annular mount plate, which is fitted to said projecting exterior portion, and to which a photographing lens unit is detachably attached, said circular annular mount plate having a connecting surface which contacts with said photographing lens unit;

a mount lock pin which is biased to protrude from said connecting surface of the circular annular mount plate to engage with said photographing lens unit at a predetermined position; and

a mount unlocking button which is operated to move said mount lock pin in a direction to retract from said connecting surface;

wherein said mount unlocking button is provided on a portion of an outer peripheral surface of said projecting exterior portion that is located closer to a lens optical axis thereof than a farthestmost portion of said projecting exterior portion from the lens optical axis in a horizontal direction of said camera body, and

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wherein the operating direction of said mount unlocking button is parallel to a plane which is perpendicular to an optical axis of the photographing lens unit.